

Application No. 09/682,732  
Art Unit 3728

21. An insert for footwear comprising:

a single, planar stainless steel sheet having a thickness between 0.020 and 0.025 inches;

a cushion layer, shaped to the contour of the bottom of a foot and including orthotic supports and a lip portion that extends upwardly and outwardly relative to the single stainless steel sheet, disposed over the single stainless steel sheet; and

a membrane secured to the cushion layer; and

wherein said insert is removable and insertable into a shoe.

22. The insert of claim 21, wherein the single, planar stainless steel sheet of the insert has a uniform thickness.

23. The insert of claim 22, wherein the cushion layer includes a bottom perimeter that is approximately equal to a perimeter over the single stainless steel sheet and further comprises a metatarsal support region integrated with the cushion layer.

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GROUP 3700